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RE-18 Review of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff
115

INT 681/1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
21st and VIRGINIA AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

7 May 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR FLEET ADMIRAL LEAHY:

Attached is a brief of the biographical data of Major General Charles Hartwell Bonesteel. The data on which it is based was obtained from public sources and was not discussed with anyone.

There is nothing in the record of this officer to indicate that he has ever had any broad experience in intelligence matters. He has had no intelligence duties.

The N.I.A. is a new concept in intelligence which requires a breadth of view and a deep understanding of the entire field on the part of the Director of Central Intelligence. The officers in the various departments engaged in this activity on the working level are generally experts in their spheres and too often the officers assigned to the higher level posts have been possessed of limited experience in intelligence. To insure the most beneficial results in the Central Intelligence Group it is necessary that the Director be an officer to whom those specialists will look for leadership and guidance based on a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of this complex subject.

In order that coordination be effected to the greatest extent, and the transfer effected of many functions of ONI, G-2, A-2 and State to the C.I.G., it is essential that these services recognize the strong leadership and inherent skill in C.I.G. top level personnel.

General Bonesteel is 61 years of age and seems to have passed the peak of his career some years ago. His record while honorable is not too impressive.

Lieutenant General Vandenberg is 47 years of age, has a fine war record, is regarded as an outstanding officer and is keenly interested in intelligence. His leadership in G-2 has been strong and determined. He has demonstrated his recognition of the necessity for the reorientation of the intelligence structure.

Respectfully,



SIDNEY W. SOUERS
Director

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MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES HARTWELL BONESTEEL

Born April 9, 1885 at Fort Sydney, Nebraska. Cadet U. S. Military Academy 1904; graduated 1908. Infantry School 1924-25; Command and General Staff School 1925-26; Army War College 1931-32; Second Lieutenant Infantry 1908; First Lieutenant 1914; Captain 1916; Major 1922; Lieutenant Colonel 1932; Colonel 1937; Brigadier General 1940; Major General 1941; Commander of U. S. Troops in Iceland 1941-43. Assigned to Army Group, Washington, June to September 1943; Commandant Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., September 1943 to June 1944; later became Inspector General European Theater until September 1945. President War Department Manpower Board, September 1945.

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